

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5188

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 27521

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJECT: ANDRE ROGER, NEWLY-NAMED FRENCH AMBASSADOR

TO VENEZUELA

REF: PARIS 3166 (2/5/75) NOTAL

1. BORN NOVEMBER 11, 1914 AND HOLDING DEGREES IN LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY, ANDRE ROGER, AFTER BEING CALLED FROM HIS FIRST POST IN BARCELONA BY THE VICHY GOVERNMENT IN 1943, REFUSED TO RETURN AND REMAINED IN SPAIN FOR ONE YEAR AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SPANISH RED CROSS IN MADRID. IN 1944 HE BECAME A VICE CONSUL IN THE DELEGATION OF THE PROVISIONAL FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN, HOLDING ALL THE WHILE A POST IN THE FRENCH UNDERGROUND. FROM 1945 TO 1947 HE WAS SECOND SECRETARY IN MADRID AND FROM 1947 TO 1949 BACK AT THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION. OTHER POSTS INCLUDE BRUSSELS AS FIRST SECRETARY (1949-1952), WARSAW AS SECOND COUNSELOR (1952-1955), BERN AS SECOND COUNSELOR (1955-1959), AND BACK IN THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL (1959 TO 1963). AFTER HIS PROMOTION AS HEAD OF THE SAME SERVICE (1964), HE LEFT LATER IN THE SAME YEAR AS CONSUL GENERAL TO GENEVA, WHERE HE REMAINED FOR SIX YEARS. IN 1970 HE WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO LAGOS, STAYING THERE UNTIL HIS

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NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR TO TANANARIVE IN JANUARY 1975.

ROGER IS MARRIED WITH THREE GROWN CHILDREN. HE HAS CONTRIBUTED EXTENSIVELY TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIE POLITIQUE PUBLISHED IN THE BENELUX COUNTRIES AND IS ALSO AN AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES IN THE PRESS.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ROGER WAS SUPPOSEDLY UNHAPPY AT THE PROSPECT OF SERVING IN A FORMER FRENCH COLONY. HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A EUROPEAN OR A MEDITERRANEAN POST, THUS HIS NEW JOB PROBABLY WON'T BRING HIM MUCH MORE PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION THAN HIS LAST. AMERICAN DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ROGER, ESPECIALLY IN LAGOS, REPORT THAT HE "NEVER PRETENDED TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LIFE IN LAGOS. HE VACATIONED IN FRANCE WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY DURING THE WINTER SPORTS SEASON WHEN HE COULD INDULGE HIS PASSION FOR SKIING. WHILE IN NIGERIA, HIS PRINCIPAL RECREATIONS BEYOND SOCIAL EVENTS APPEARED TO BE TENNIS AND WALKING." HE IS REPORTEDLY SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE AND, WHILE IN LAGOS, WAS IN THE COMPANY OF HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MISS CHRISTIANE KIRSCH.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, ROGER'S LAGOS ASSIGNMENT WAS APPARENTLY A PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS. HE WAS NOT ONLY PRESENT FOR, BUT PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF THE RESTORATION OF RELATIVELY NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND FRANCE WHICH, IN VIEW OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR BIAFRA, WAS NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT. BY THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE, HE WAS ALLEGEDLY "ONE OF THE BETTER INFORMED MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS."

4. AMEMBASSY PARIS WOULD APPRECIATE COPY OF WHATEVER INFORMATION TANANARIVE MAY ADD TO THE ABOVE.
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